UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/460
15 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 12, 20, 35, 46, 56, 58, 60, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 105, 106, 114, 117, 120 and 157
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UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

97-27433 (E) 211097

Letter dated 13 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 adopted on the occasion of the twenty-first annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 1977 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate it if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 20, 35, 46, 56, 58, 60, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 105, 106, 114, 117, 120 and 157.

(Signed) Daudi N. MWAKAWAGO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77

ANNEX

Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-first annual meeting held in New York on 26 September 1997

## MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

1. The Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 was held in New York on 26 September 1997.

2. The Ministers addressed issues of interests to the Group of 77 covering areas such as global, economic situation, development and international economic cooperation, international trade, external debt of developing countries, financing for development, follow-up of United Nations major conferences and summits, industrialization, environment and development, critical economic situation in Africa, critical situation in the Middle East, reform of the United Nations, the United Nations financial situation and South-South cooperation.

## GLOBAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

3. The Ministers, while welcoming the continued growth of global economy, noted some of the problem factors, in particular that:

- the world economy has not generated adequate employment and alleviation of poverty in the developing countries;

- the gap between the rich and the poor is growing among and within countries;

- volatile short term capital flows and rapid and sudden withdrawal of portfolio investments may create structural problems for the development of developing countries.

4. The Ministers noted that increased global competition does not automatically bring about faster growth and development nor does growth automatically reduce inequality. The liberalization of an economy in itself is not sufficient assurance that growth and development will follow. This depends on implementation of an enabling international environment which can promote growth with equity.

5. The Ministers noted that evidence is mounting that slow growth and rising inequalities are becoming a more permanent feature of the world economy. In future trade negotiations, it is essential to restore balance and to accelerate the liberalization of trade sectors of interests to developing countries.

## DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

6. In reviewing developments in the world economic scene, the Ministers recognized the importance, inter alia, for world economic growth and expansion of trade. In this regard they noted the economic progress made by a number of members of the Group and

the increased importance of the Group in world economic affairs. They also recognize that developing countries, as a whole, are still confronted with many shared and common problems and challenges flowing from the deepening interaction among nations and accelerated globalization and liberalization of the world economy. In this context, they expressed concern on the increased vulnerability of developing countries to unfavorable external economic environment and that many members of the Group continue to face severe difficulties and experience sluggish or even negative economic growth. They stressed the urgency and importance of heightened international support for the developing countries, particularly the African, and the least developed countries, in order to broaden their opportunities for sustained economic growth and development.

7. The Ministers stressed that the processes of globalization and liberalization bring challenges and opportunities which affect virtually all countries, but in unequal ways. Liberalization has occurred in an uneven manner with obvious discrimination against areas in which the developing countries can achieve comparative advantage. Perceptions of an unfair multilateral trading system creates the threat of a potential backlash against globalization in developing countries. This could reverse beneficial reform and provoke a roll back of the achievements of economic integration. Such an uneven trend requires renewed partnership and the fulfillment of international cooperation commitments in order for developing countries to effectively benefit from these processes. This process must be managed on the basis of principles of non-discrimination and avoidance of measures that lead to unfair competition, as well as the recognition to the need for safeguard and preferential treatment of developing countries. In the context of liberalization, developed countries should lead in the liberalization of all factors of production particularly labour.

8. The Ministers were deeply concerned about the recent fluctuations in the currencies of some members of the Group caused by, inter-alia well-coordinated speculative activities to destabilize currencies for self-serving purposes and the negative impact of these fluctuations on their economic stability, growth, trade and development process. They are convinced that strengthened regional and multilateral cooperation have a central role to play in preventing such negative impact on growth and development.

9. The Ministers regretted that developed countries still lacked the political will to achieve effective and equitable solutions to the world economic growth. They also regretted the tendency on the part of a group of developed countries to take decisions of global concern outside the multilateral framework of the United Nations system that affect the world economy without giving full consideration to the interests of developing countries.

10. The Ministers called for the full and effective participation of the developing countries in the process of decision-making, standard setting and in the resolution of world economic problems through strengthening multilateralism aimed at promoting equitable growth in the world economy. They emphasized that the increasing globalization and liberalization of the world economy required an equitable and effective mechanism of multilateral macroeconomic policy coordination which should allow for

greater participation of developing countries and take into account their needs and concerns. They underscored the urgent need for the United Nations to play a more active role and to exert policy leadership on development issues and international development cooperation.

11. The Ministers called upon the developed countries to desist from taking any measures aimed at introducing new conditionalities in international economic cooperation, in particular those relating to trade and the environment, labour standards, official development assistance (ODA) and technology transfer, and restrictions on market access for the commodities, manufactures and services of developing countries, particularly in the light of dwindling resources for development cooperation.

12. The Ministers expressed the urgent need for certain developed countries to immediately eliminate laws and regulations with adverse extra-territorial impacts and other forms of coercive economic measures including unilateral sanctions against developing countries. They emphasized that such action not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, inter alia, sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs, but also severely menace the freedom of trade and investment, which are also spelled out in many international legal instruments, including the principles establishing the World Trade Organization.

13. The Ministers also expressed their grave concern over the impact of sanctions on civilian population and development capacity in targeted countries and therefore urged the international community to establish sanctions only in strict conformity with the Charter of the United Nations with clear objectives, clear time frame, provision for regular review, precise conditions for their lifting and never to use them as a form of punishment or otherwise exact retribution.

14. The Ministers welcomed the conclusion and adoption of the Agenda for Development which provides a comprehensive and fundamental framework on principles, objectives, policy actions and institutional arrangements on international cooperation for development in the medium and long-term. They underscored the imperative of political commitment to effectively implement and operationalize this Agenda.

15. The Ministers stressed the importance of the "Renewal of a dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership," which could serve as an essential mechanism to discuss emerging and urgent issues relevant to the strengthening of global partnership for development to further strengthen the efforts of the international community in implementing the agreed commitments and outcomes of the major United Nations resolutions.

16. The Ministers recognized that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are the weakest partners in the international community with the most formidable development problems. In a world economy, which is increasingly being shaped by the processes of

globalization and liberalization, the LDCs are marginalized from the mainstream of the world economy. The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the sluggish growth of the LDCs' economies. The LDCs have not been able to attract any significant amount of foreign investment, their debt burden has increased while external assistance has diminished. While supply-side constraints are an important impediment to development in the LDCs, the poor economic performance of these countries is also attributed to external factors such as a dwindling flow of ODA, depressed commodity prices and the debt crisis. It was also recognized that in order to benefit from and sustain the wide range of structural and economic reforms being undertaken by them as well as for laying down of infrastructure, an increased flow of external resources was required. The Ministers, thus, called upon all major donors to reverse the downward trend of assistance to LDCs and fulfil the agreed target of ODA as soon as possible. The Ministers further called upon the international community to implement fully the Programme of Action for the LDC's for 1990's in order to accelerate growth and development process in those countries. They also stressed the importance of initiating preparations for the Third UN Conference on LDCs, proposed to be held in 2000, which would offer a scope to comprehensively deal with the overall development problems of the LDCs.

17. The Ministers called on the international community to give special attention and support to the special development problems and needs of the Land-locked developing countries, particularly through technical cooperation and financial assistance by developed countries, and multilateral financial institutions to enable these countries to effectively participate in a rapidly globalizing world economy and international trade. They also noted that transit developing countries faced serious economic problems and that their efforts at developing a viable transit infrastructure also needed support from the international community. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the outcome of the third meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor community.

18. The Ministers recognized the Barbados Programme of Action as a comprehensive tool for the international community to address serious problems faced by the Small Island Development States (SIDS) in achieving sustainable development. They expressed concern that there has not been commensurate support by the international community to implement this Programme of Action. In noting the importance to the SIDS of the full and comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action scheduled to be held in 1999, the Ministers welcomed the decision of the Nineteenth Special Session of the General Assembly to hold a two-day special session immediately preceding the fifty-fourth session for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Ministers renewed their call for continued support and strengthening of efforts at the international level to assist SIDS in the implementation and follow-up of the Barbados Programme of Action.

19. The Ministers are convinced that women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace.

20. The Ministers accorded high priority, in accordance with national plans, to the implementation and follow-up of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women. They stressed that the Platform for Action is the most practical means for the achievement of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies to advance the goals of equality development and peace for all women world wide. The Ministers also took note of the efforts by the United Nations System to follow-up the outcome of the Beijing Conference and welcomed the initiatives of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes. They expressed their commitment to intensify the ongoing efforts addressing the various critical areas of concern and called upon the international community to continue supporting the developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries in their efforts to implement the Platform for Action.

21. The Ministers emphasized that sub-regional and regional cooperation is an important means of expanding trade and investment opportunities as well as the transfer of technology. The United Nations regional commissions should enhance regional cooperation between their member states in economic, social and related activities and strengthen the relationships in these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world. They resolved to work for the strengthening of the regional commissions, which they recognized as valuable development oriented focal points of the United Nations system at the regional level. They stressed the need for a strong commitment by the international community to support regional economic cooperation within the framework of an open, equitable, non-discriminatory and rule-based multilateral trading system. In this regard, the Ministers noted that the regional commissions provide a valuable forum and mechanism to promote and strengthen regional cooperation.

22. The Ministers warmly welcomed the decision of the Government of the United Kingdom to rejoin UNESCO and urged other member States to take the necessary steps to achieve the universality of the organization. The Ministers are convinced that providing lifelong education for all, assisting in the advancement, transfer and sharing of knowledge, ensuring the free flow of information and the development of communication capacities, and promoting cultural development as well as preserving the cultural heritage of humankind, which are within the mandate of UNESCO, are necessary components of development.

23. The Ministers stressed the fact that Eradication of Poverty based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice requires the equal involvement of both women and men as agents and beneficiaries of people-centered sustainable development. In this context, the Ministers reaffirmed that the goal of eradicating poverty in the world is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative which can only be achieved through a multidimensional and integrated approach.

24. The Ministers underscored the fact that provision of education, health services, water, particularly safe drinking water, sanitation and adequate shelter posed major constraints to economic and social development in developing countries. They called upon the international community to support national initiatives of these countries in addressing those constraints with special attention to the needs and rights of women and children and disadvantaged groups and persons.

25. The Ministers reaffirmed that the holding of a Special Session of the General Assembly in 1998 devoted to the strengthening of International Cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities will make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the United Nations and Member States in the fight against this global problem.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

26. The Ministers stressed the critical need for an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable multilateral trading system which should enhance trade and development possibilities of developing countries and facilitate an increased share of these countries in international trade. To this end, they urged developed countries to avoid all forms of protectionist tendencies and implement international trade liberalization measures as a necessary step towards the establishment of a just and equitable multilateral trading system. The Ministers stressed that the trade policy reforms being undertaken by developing countries would be frustrated unless the developed countries took positive structural adjustment measures providing larger export possibilities to developing countries. In this context, the Ministers underscored the need for supporting the developing countries in the process of implementation of various agreements relating to trade and development.

27. The Ministers urged that commitments undertaken in respect of trade liberalization by developed countries in areas of export interest to developing countries such as textiles and agriculture, be implemented so as to genuinely enhance their market access. They expressed concern at the high incidence and resort by developed countries to antidumping and countervailing duty measures to unfairly target developing country exports and the use of technical barriers, environmental and social concerns for protectionist purposes. The Ministers urged that both in respect of traditional areas of trade as well as new areas being covered by WTO, the special needs interest and circumstances of developing countries be integrated.

28. The Ministers recognizing the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as the principal forum of United Nations General Assembly for the integrated treatment of development and related issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, were convinced that the Tenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD-X), to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in the year 2000 would provide a good opportunity to advance global partnership for economic cooperation for the next

millennium. The Ministers attach great importance to UNCTAD's role in supporting developing countries in the context of the ongoing and future trade and development negotiations. They further reiterated their strong commitment to strengthen and support UNCTAD so that it will fully carry out its trade and development mandate.

29. The Ministers emphasized the importance of ensuring the universality of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and, in this context called for expeditious accession without political impediment for applying developing countries that are not members of the World Trade Organization and also for ensuring transparency.

## EXTERNAL DEBT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

30. The Ministers underscored that the debt burden had an adverse impact on the economies of the developing countries. They expressed deep concern that the development efforts of developing countries, in particular the provision for essential social and economic services, including housing, education and health, are severely hampered by the imperative need to set aside a substantial portion of national budgets for the servicing of external debt. This situation was further exacerbated by the negative effect of the structural adjustment process, flow of financial resources from developing to developed countries, unpredictability of the international financial system, and conditionalities by international financial institutions including denying some developing countries access to their resources on political grounds, decline in official development assistance, deteriorating terms of trade of developing countries and sharp falls in commodities prices as well as escalating protectionism in the developed countries. It was further noted that the various debt relief measures have not gone deep enough to alleviate substantially the burden of debt and debt servicing of developing countries. The Ministers, therefore, stressed the urgent need for effective, equitable, development oriented and durable solution to the external debt and debt servicing problems of developing countries.

31. The Ministers stressed the need for a further enhancement of the Naples terms by the Paris Club, including debt cancellation. They also noted the need to take decisive steps aimed at substantially reducing bilateral official debts through their cancellation or writing off. They further stressed the urgency for a swift implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), debt initiative by the World Bank and the IMF, as well as the need to implement the Initiative's eligibility criteria flexibly so as to ensure sufficient coverage of concerned countries.

32. The Ministers underscored the importance of foreign direct investment (FDI) as an instrument for economic growth and development in developing countries. In this context, they recognized that many developing countries are undergoing extensive economic reforms to establish a positive investment climate. They stressed that as part of their effort to increase the flow of resources to developing countries, industrialized countries should provide greater incentives for foreign investment in developing countries. The Ministers reiterated the Group's position that FDI cannot replace ODA.

## FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

33. The Ministers stressed the need for strong commitment by the International community for mobilizing adequate resources for the effective contribution to accelerate sustained economic growth in the developing countries. The Ministers expressed deep concern for the evident lack of political will by the developed countries and in this regard they urged for a re-commitment by these countries on the financing of development process in developing countries.

34. The Ministers reiterated the urgent need for a substantial increase of official development assistance (ODA) in view of the declining levels of such assistance in recent years. In this regard, they strongly urged compliance with internationally agreed targets of ODA and commitments for new and additional resources . In particular they urged the developed countries to provide 0.7 per cent of their GNP to developing countries by the year 2000 and commitments reflected in Agenda 21 as well as 0.15 per cent for the least developed countries in accordance with the Paris Declaration and the programme of Action adopted in September 1990.

35. The Ministers recalled the recent adoption by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations of several resolutions relating to the need to strengthen collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions in the achievement of the goals of development cooperation.

36. In this context, the Ministers called for the convening an International Conference on financing of development with a broad agenda. They decided that the Group of 77 shall pursue this matter when the item comes up for consideration in the Second Committee of the General Assembly. The Group should act in close collaboration with the Group of 24 having in mind that, to assure its success, the international conference should be prepared as soon as possible.

## FOLLOW-UP OF UNITED NATIONS MAJOR CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

37. The Ministers stressed the critical importance of effective follow-up to landmark United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990, namely the World Summit for Children, the Second United Nations Conference of the Least Developed Countries, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the World Food Summit and UNCTAD IX. The Commitments, recommendations and measures agreed to at those conferences must be implemented as soon as possible. In this regard, it is especially important to fully honour the commitments pertaining to the financing of actions envisaged in the conferences, as well as establishing effective institutional mechanisms for follow-up action.

38. The Ministers called upon the developed countries to fulfil their commitments for the implementation and follow-up of decisions and recommendations set forth in the programmes of Action and relevant documents adopted at the major Untied Nations Conferences and Summits held in this decade. The Ministers also expressed grave concern at the fact that commitments made by the developed countries at the highest levels are not being honoured. The Ministers also cautioned against any approach which seeks to implement selectively the outcomes of the Summits, thereby excluding the international community's obligations in areas such as providing greater markets access, easing the debt burden, and promoting financial flows and technology transfers.

## INDUSTRIALIZATION

39. The Ministers reaffirmed the continued urgency to promote industrialization as a dynamic instrument for the rapid economic and social development of developing countries, contributing to the eradication of poverty and the creation of productive employment. Recognizing that the efforts of the developing countries in implementing their policies and strategies of industrialization could not succeed without an favorable international environment, the Ministers called for enhanced international cooperation to enhance technology transfer, market access, financial flows and capacity building in support of the developing countries in their process of industrialization.

40. The Ministers underscored the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as an independent specialized agency with a central coordinating role within the United Nations system in the field of industrial development and reiterated their strong commitment to strengthen and support UNIDO in exercising fully its development mandate. They noted with satisfaction the completion of the reform process undertaken successfully by UNIDO which aimed at enhancing its effectiveness as a global forum for supporting and promoting industrial development and a provider of specialized technical cooperation services. The Ministers warmly welcomed the decision of the Government of the United Kingdom to remain in UNIDO and urge other member States to take the necessary steps to ensure the universality of the Organization.

## ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

41. The Ministers noted the outcome of the Nineteenth Special Session for Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21 (UNGASS). The Ministers further noted with deep concern that the outcome of UNGASS had shown that there has been little progress in achieving the Earth Summit's goals, primarily due to a failure by the developed countries to fulfil their obligations in regard to provision of new and additional financial resources and the transfer of technology. They expressed deep concern that the overall trends with respect to sustainable development are worse today than they were in 1992, and the developing countries are most vulnerable to environmental degradation and various disasters which come with it. The Ministers emphasized that the efforts by the developing countries towards achieving sustainable development objectives, can only be effective with simultaneous efforts towards accelerating sustained economic growth and development of developing countries

through, inter-alia, the creation of an enabling external economic environment conducive to the development process in particular in the fields of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade.

42. The Ministers reiterated the urgency to accelerate the comprehensive implementation of Agenda 21. In this regard, they stressed that such implementation should not contradict the right of the developing countries to benefit fully from the utilization of their resources which are vital for sustained economic growth and development. The Ministers called on the developed countries to fulfill all their commitments contained in Agenda 21, which require them to halt their own destructive impacts on the global environment while assisting the developing countries in combating such threat.

43. The Ministers stressed that insufficient financing is the key obstacle to the promotion of greater effectiveness of developing countries' efforts in the protection of the environment. They reemphasises the importance of international cooperation to provide the developing countries with new and additional financial resources without imposing any forms of conditionalities. In this regard, they reiterated the need for political will on the part of developed countries for the effective implementation of their commitments embodied in Agenda 21 in the area of financial resources. In this connection, they pointed out that the existing Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources are far from being adequate. They therefore stressed that GEF resources should be increased and that there should be more flexibility in the disbursement of its resources in order to enable more countries to benefit from it.

44. The Ministers stressed that the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies are essential components of a successful strategy for sustainable development. Therefore, it is important to emphasize that effective modalities be agreed upon for the creation, development, favourable access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including concessional, preferential and grant terms. This arrangements should include the establishment in developing countries of international, regional and subregional technology centres, and the dissemination of information on existing environmentally sound technologies.

45. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the First Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. Furthermore, the Ministers welcomed the impressive 108 ratifications so far, and urged other countries which have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible. They also stressed that all environmental conventions including the Convention to Combat Desertification should enjoy equal treatment. In this context, they emphasized that the establishment of an independent financial mechanism which benefit from its own resources is imperative for the implementation of the First Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification.

46. The Ministers expressed concern over the weakening of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen UNEP as the leading global environmental organization and urged developed countries to support UNEP with adequate and predictable financial resources. The Ministers expressed their resolve not to countenance any measure that would weaken UNEP in any form.

## CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

47. The Ministers reiterated their profound concern at the persistent critical economic situation in Africa. They were convinced that, if not reversed, current trends could considerably worsen the situation, thus endangering the economic and social conditions of African countries and hampering the prospects for their rehabilitation and development. They expressed their solidarity with the African countries and urged the international community, particularly the developed countries and the United Nations system, to adopt and implement concrete and effective measures to support the efforts of the African countries in the process of economic reforms and development.

48. The Ministers noted with deep concern the critical conditions in the external debt of African countries and the heavy and unbearable burden of debt-servicing that had led to the paradoxical situation where African countries found themselves net exporters of capital to the developed countries and international financial institutions. Furthermore, the Ministers noted that the deteriorating prices for primary commodities, insufficient foreign investment and declining flows of official development assistance to the region has adversely affected the ability of African countries to meet their development objectives as well as their other financial obligations.

49. The Ministers urged the international community to reaffirm its commitment to resolving the severe problems facing the African continent. This should include a durable solution to Africa's external debt problem, diversification of African economies, more access to trade and market opportunities, resource flows, and transfer of technology. The Ministers welcomed the Mid-Term Review of the United Nations New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) at which Africa and the international community renewed their commitment to and adopted a set of recommendations on new measures aimed at giving further impetus to the implementation of the New Agenda in the spirit of partnership. The Ministers also welcomed the Secretary-General's special initiative on Africa launched on March 1996 as one of the means of operationalizing the Mid-Term Review of the United Nations New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990s.

## CRITICAL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

50. The Ministers expressed their concern over the deteriorating economic and social situation of the Palestinian people as a result of the continued illegal Israeli policies and action in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, particularly settlement activities, the closure of the Palestinian territory and the withholding of Palestinian

revenues. In this context, the Ministers stressed the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods, and to respect the fundamental human rights of the whole population in the territory. The Ministers reemphasized the need for international assistance to support Palestinian development efforts in the economic and social fields in the pursuit of sustainable development, and called on the international donor community to deliver the financial assistance pledged to the Palestinian Authority.

51. The Ministers expressed their concern at the stalled peace process in the Middle East and the persistence of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and other Arab territories, which gravely deteriorate the living conditions of the Arab population under occupation, as well as negatively affect the national efforts to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the region. In this context, the Ministers urgently called for the implementation of the agreements reached and for international support to reactivate and complete the peace process from the point it was stopped at, emphasizing the necessity to respect all agreements, guarantees and commitments reached during previous stage of the peace talks. They also reaffirmed their support to the Palestinian people in their efforts to achieve their inalienable rights. including the right to establish their own independent state on their national soil. including Jerusalem. They reaffirmed further the permanent responsibility of the United Nations in dealing with the Question of Palestine. At the same time, the Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Peace Process initiated at the Peace Conference on the Middle East, held in Madrid, which aimed at achieving comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978), and the principle of "Land for Peace". The Ministers, further, called on Israel to comply with all United Nations resolutions to put an end to its occupation of all Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and other Arab territories including the Syrian Golan and South Lebanon.

## REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

52. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the United Nations as the central forum for dialogue and negotiations on issues relating to international cooperation for development and called upon all States to respect the principles and purposes as embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. They also called for a stronger United Nations system to handle the complex and interrelated problems facing the world economy, in due coordination with the multilateral financial institutions. They expressed deep concern at the financial crisis of the United Nations, which has placed in jeopardy the ability of the Organization to fully implement its mandated programmes and which undermines the very essence of multilateralism.

53. The Ministers expressed a high political importance to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for economic and social development. The Ministers strongly believed that the United Nations should be allowed to develop its full potential in the field of international economic cooperation. To that

end, the realization of the right to development should be given utmost priority by the United Nations.

54. The Ministers observed that the reform of the United Nations is an ongoing process. Proposals for reforms have been considered in the context of the Open-Ended High Level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations system, resolution 50/227 and the Secretary-General's reform proposals. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General in the ongoing process of the reform and took note of his report entitled "Renewing the United Nations" A Programme for Reform," presented on 16 July 1997. The Ministers stated that the Group of 77 will study this report and take a position in due course.

55. The Ministers strongly endorsed the statement of principles on UN reforms adopted by the 22nd Meeting of the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77 held in Geneva from 7 to 9 July 1997. In this context the Ministers reaffirmed these principles as follows:

(i) The reform process must strengthen the UN's ability to fulfil its role and functions in the development field, with the General Assembly providing the leadership to ensure the fulfillment of the social and economic goals enunciated in the United Nations Charter;

(ii) The reform process should be carried out with the primary objective of strengthening the capacity of the Organization to address development issues and to respond effectively to the development needs of developing countries. It should not be motivated by the aim of downsizing the United Nations and achieve savings;

(iii) The developmental tasks of the United Nations are of fundamental importance and may not be treated as secondary to its peacekeeping, human rights and humanitarian functions. Managerial measures to reduce overlap of functions, eliminate redundancies and minimize fragmentation are exceedingly important, but must be subservient to the larger goals of the reform process;

(iv) The United Nations must carry out its mandated, comprehensive role in the economic and social areas. This includes policy analysis, consensus building, policy formulation and coordination, and delivery of technical assistance to developing countries;

(v) The United Nations General Assembly's role in the area of macro-economic policy formulation and coordination has to be strengthened and the core economic issues must be restored to the top of the United Nations' agenda;

(vi) The United Nations, by virtue of its universal membership, is the most credible organization for performing developmental tasks. Assumption of some of these tasks, especially economic policy formulation and coordination, by limited groups outside the UN system is not the best way of ensuring equitable economic growth and development. Equally, the tendency to have these functions performed by organizations within the UN system with "weighted" means of decision-making, on the misleading grounds of "comparative advantage", is neither sustainable nor beneficial in the long run;

(vii) All reform proposals must aim at giving greater effect to the principles of transparency, pluralism, and democracy which are the unique strengths of the United Nations. This means ensuring the availability of multiple perspectives/analyses on critical socio-economic issues and the strengthening of democratic decision-making processes;

(viii) The functioning of organizations within the United Nations system which do not fully observe democratic norms should be comprehensively reviewed. The decision-making process of the Bretton Woods Institutions should be reformed to allow for greater democracy, universality and transparency;

(ix) The reform of the Secretariat should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. These resolutions stress that restructuring of the Secretariat should proceed with the objective of enhancing the effective implementation of the objectives of the Charter; emphasize the prerogative of the General Assembly in the creation, transfer and abolition of posts; assert the principle of equitable geographical representation in the staffing of the Secretariat; and preclude the monopoly on senior posts of any States or group of States;

(x) A primary pre-requisite for enhancing United Nations effectiveness is to have stable, predictable and adequate financing for the United Nations. Member States must fulfil their legal obligations to pay their contributions promptly, in full and without conditions, in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter, and take concrete actions to clear their arrears within a reasonable and defined time-frame and without any conditionalities.

## THE UNITED NATIONS FINANCIAL SITUATION

56. The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the chronic difficult financial situation of the United Nations due to the failure of Member States, in particular some major contributors to comply with their financial obligations in full, on time and without conditions. Its magnitude is unprecedented and have virtually left the Organization teetering on the brink of insolvency and therefore represents the most acute threat to multilateral cooperation for development. it has also resulted in the delay of the

reimbursement of the troop contributing countries, particularly those of the developing countries.

57. The Ministers reaffirmed the legal obligation of Member States to bear the expense of the Organization in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the requirements to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time and without conditions. While recognizing the need to extend sympathetic understanding to those that are temporarily unable to meet their financial obligations as a consequence of genuine economic difficulties, in all other cases, the Ministers urged members of the United Nations, in particular some major contributors, to exert every effort to pay all their dues unconditionally, in full and on time.

58. The Ministers reaffirmed that the principle of the "capacity to pay" is fundamental in the assessment of the Member States contributions to the United Nations. The Ministers further stressed that the developing countries should not be assessed a rate higher than the capacity to pay as a result of any adjustments in the scale. The Ministers noted that the current floor assessment has resulted in a serious departure from the principle of the capacity to pay for a large number of small member States from developing countries.

59. The Ministers also reaffirmed that the principle contained in the special scale of assessments established in resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963 and 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 for the apportionment of the costs of peacekeeping operations must be adopted on a permanent basis. In this regard, they stressed that the scale for the financing of these operations must clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council and economic situation faced by other countries or groups of countries, particularly developing countries. In this context, the Ministers further stressed that the establishment of a ceiling and a floor for the Permanent Members of the Security Council is totally unacceptable.

60. The Ministers reiterated their concern at the continuing financial cutbacks to an already severely limited programme budget of the United Nations which has continued to threaten the very functioning of the United Nations and would adversely affect the Organization's capability to implement fully the programmes and activities which Member States have entrusted to it, particularly in the field of international and regional cooperation for development. In this regard, the Ministers stressed the need for the reform process of the United Nations, to strengthen, rather than weaken the implementation of all approved programmes and activities and related secretariat support structures.

## SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

61. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC/TCDC) and reiterated their conviction that it constitutes an integral and essential part of the efforts of the developing countries to promote economic growth, technological capacities and accelerated development. They also reiterated their conviction that South-South cooperation not only is a means of taking

advantage of existing and potential complementarities in the economies of developing countries, but can also contribute to restructuring international economic relations and to strengthening the world economy.

62. The Ministers furthermore noted with satisfaction that in the past few years there has been a robust resurgence of interests, willingness and determination among developing countries in South-South cooperation. The new expectations, in turn, have sparked a strong movement to introduce into the South-South cooperation process strategic and innovative approaches and modalities in keeping with changing global circumstances so that South-South cooperation becomes more dynamic and realistic. In this regard, the Ministers supported the Asian-Africa cooperation framework as a mechanism to strengthen South-South Cooperation and particularly welcomed the outcome of the Asia-Africa Forum II held in Bangkok 11-13 June 1997. They also reiterated their conviction that as a mean of enhancing their negotiating power vis-a-vis the developed countries, South-South cooperation was essential to reduce the vulnerability of the developing countries to the effects of adverse international economic environment.

63. The Ministers recognized the increased relevance and importance of South-South cooperation in the current international economic climate. They therefore reiterated their support for South-South cooperation both as a strategy in support of the development efforts of the developing countries and as a means of ensuring their equitable participation in the emerging global economic order. They also endorsed the measures identified by the Meeting of Chairmen/Coordinators of the G-77 Chapters held in Geneva in July 1997 aimed at strengthening South-South cooperation as a strategic element in the overall economic development strategy of the Group.

64. The Ministers endorsed the decisions of the tenth session of the High-level Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in New York from 5-9 May 1997, which called upon the international community to provide the necessary, adequate financial and technical support to enable the developing countries to implement the recommendations contained in the report on New Directions Strategy for TCDC which emphasized the need to focus on high priority issues such as trade and investment, production and employment, poverty eradication, environment and macroeconomic management that are likely to have a major impact on the developing countries. In this regard, they urged the UN system to address effectively and operationalize the implementation of recommendations contained in the New Directions Strategy as well as to expand the utilization of TCDC modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

65. The Ministers emphasized the increasing importance and complementarity of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a means of supporting the development efforts of these countries and ensuring their effective participation in the emerging global economic order that is increasingly shaped by the forces of globalization and economic liberalization. They urged the United Nations system to foster closer linkages on policy and operational aspects between TCDC and

ECDC. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption of New Directions by the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC and urged the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to continue to preserve the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and to increase its resources to enable the Unit to carry out its responsibilities and mandate.

66. The Ministers restated the request by the tenth High Level Committee of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries that the Administrator of UNDP in consultations with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to submit the recommendations on the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning TCDC to the Fifty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly.

67. The Ministers appealed to the members to contribute generously to the "ECDC Account" in order to facilitate the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action. For those that have not contributed a special appeal was made to do so and to those who have already contributed an appeal was made to increase their contributions.

68. The Ministers recognized the importance of the role and activities of the South Centre and reaffirmed their continued support the Centre. In this regard, they welcomed the fact that 25 countries had acceded to the Agreement to Establish the Centre and invited all members of the Group who had not done so to consider ratifying the Agreement. They also welcomed the valuable contribution of the Centre to the work of the Group of 77 and called on developing countries to support financially the Centre. The Ministers also invited all Members of the Group of 77 to financially support the Centre with the goal of reaching the target for the capital fund entirely with the contributions from the South in order to enable the Centre to fulfill efficiently its mandate.

69. The Ministers approved the report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) presented in accordance with the guidelines for the utilization of PGTF, and approved its recommendations. They expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by PGTF and agreed to explore ways and means to expand its resources.

70. The Ministers strongly encourage developing countries that are in a position to provide support, to contribute generously to organizations and funds which are involved in promoting South-South cooperation, including the United Nations Trust Fund on South-South Cooperation, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, and the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) including the South Centre.

71. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the South-South Conference on Trade, Investment and Finance held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 13 to 15 January 1997 and emphasized the need to ensure an effective follow up of the San Jose Declaration and Plan of Action and other related sectoral meetings, as well as the importance of holding sectoral follow-up meetings as envisaged in the Caracas Programme of Action for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries. They called on Member States to come forward to offer venues to these meetings as well as other meetings that might arise

from the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on ECDC (IFCC-X) and provide their full support for the implementation of the recommendations of these meetings.

72. The Ministers expressed their full support for convening a South Summit at an appropriate date in the near future, as called for in the San Jose Declaration on South-South Cooperation.

73. The Ministers expressed their full support of the view to enhancing coordination and interaction among the Chapters of the Group of 77 through consultations and exchanging of information among the various Chapters on a regular basis as identified in the final Communique adopted by the Meeting of Chairman/Coordinators of the Group of 77 Chapters held in Geneva in July this year.

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UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/461
15 October 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 14 and 71

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 14 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the declaration of participants in the International Conference on Problems of Nuclear Weapon Non-Proliferation, which was held from 8 to 12 September 1997 in Almaty and Kurchatov, Kazakhstan, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N. A. Nazarbaev (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 14 and 71.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: English and Russian]

## Declaration of participants of the International Conference on Problems of Nuclear Weapon Non-Proliferation

The International Conference on Problems of Nuclear Weapon Non-Proliferation was held in Almaty and Kurchatov (Kazakhstan) from 8 to 12 September 1997. Representatives of many countries took part in the Conference including the Russian Federation, the United States of America, France, Sweden and others. Political and technical issues related to assurance of a non-proliferation regime and problems of converting former nuclear test sites and their infrastructure were discussed. In addition, questions related to the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central Asia were considered. A separate section was devoted to problems of radiation safety and rehabilitation of the former test site territory.

The Conference coincided with the 50 year anniversary of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site which was closed by Decree of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev in 1992 after a long period of operation. The Republic of Kazakhstan was a part of a nuclear weapon State. Since Independence the Republic has firmly renounced all work connected with the development of nuclear weapons and widely supports the efforts of the world community in strengthening the non-proliferation regime. It is symbolic that the Conference was held in the city of Kurchatov which served as centre of the former test site and is now the home of the National Nuclear Centre of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Centre conducts research on exclusively peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

This year, the world community is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are all aware of the very important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in assuring non-proliferation. We highly value the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency in strengthening the regime as well as its activities in increasing the efficiency of international safeguards of peaceful nuclear activity.

Our Conference gathered many scientists who worked in the past on military nuclear programme and their experience can be used, and is already being used to strengthen the efficiency of measures to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation. Reports were presented by well-known experts in the field of non-proliferation from different countries and organizations. The Conference gave experts with different approaches to solving proliferation problems, the opportunity to exchange their views, to share experience of different countries and international organizations directed to strengthening the non-proliferation regime. Conversion problems and the issue of test sites and the rehabilitation with which Kazakhstan is faced are very important to countries that are converting their nuclear military programmes.

The participants hope that the Conference contributed significantly to the understanding of the problems related to strengthening non-proliferation and hope that progress was achieved in mutual understanding between the participating countries. We, the Conference participants, would like to express our thanks to the International Atomic Energy Agency for its noble efforts and wish further success in its activities during its 40th anniversary year and in the years to come.

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United Nations A/52/462

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 October 1997
English
Original: English/Spanish

**Fifty-second session**
Agenda item 32

# Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

## Report of the Secretary-General

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97-27334 (E) 241097

# I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/19 of 14 November 1996 on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in which, *inter alia*, it took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/458) and requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance which States of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the objectives of the zone. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views expressed by Member States.

2. Pursuant to resolution 51/19, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale dated 25 March 1997 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations, requesting their views on the implementation of the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. On the same day, letters were also dispatched to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations, requesting them to submit their contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General by 30 June 1997.

3. As of 30 September 1997, four Governments had replied and communications had been received from six of the organizations and United Nations bodies addressed. Those replies are reflected in sections II and III of the present report. Any further replies received will be incorporated in an addendum to the report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## A. Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[25 June 1997]

1. The Argentine Republic is pleased to transmit the following observations concerning the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. It is important to recall the continuing colonial situation of the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, which affects the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic. Despite the good relations now existing between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the efforts made by Argentina to promote dialogue and a peaceful and lasting settlement of the Malvinas question, its commitment to respect the way of life of the inhabitants of the islands, and the many calls by the international community for a negotiated settlement, it has not been possible to conduct negotiations with a view to ending the dispute over sovereignty. The Argentine Republic believes that solving this important problem will make it possible to consolidate stability and cooperation in the South Atlantic on a lasting basis.

2. Argentina has participated actively in the meetings of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and fully supports the section of the Final Declaration of the States members of the zone, adopted at their fourth meeting, held at Somerset West, South Africa, on 1 and 2 April 1996, concerning efforts to combat drug trafficking. Accordingly, Argentina offered to host the fifth meeting, which will be held at Buenos Aires in April 1998.

3. With reference to the decision taken at the fourth meeting to request the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to examine ways of assisting the region, Argentina's position is that the region's needs must first be identified. Accordingly, consultations are taking place with the member countries of the troika of the zone of peace and cooperation concerning the content and scope of the cooperation programme to be requested of the Programme.

4. In its bilateral relations with South Africa, Argentina has submitted a draft framework agreement on cooperation against drug addiction and drug trafficking that is currently being analysed by the South African authorities.

5. With regard to the decision on the protection of the marine environment, adopted at the fourth meeting of the States members of the zone, Argentina notes the following:

(a) Its concern that agreement should be reached, within the competent international agencies, on adequate regulation of the carriage of so-called "INF materials" (plutonium, irradiated nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive wastes) on board ships, "adequate regulation" meaning regulation that, without detriment to the principle of freedom of navigation, gives the coastal State a primary role in ensuring that the traffic of a vessel carrying this kind of materials off its coastline creates the least possible risk to its marine environment;

(b) The importance of ensuring that States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), as well as the international instruments — most of them adopted within the framework of the International

Maritime Organization (IMO) — regulating different aspects of the protection of the marine environment.

6. Concerning the decision on illegal fishing activities also adopted at the fourth meeting, Argentina considers it important that the States members of the zone ratify the Agreement on the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (New York, 1995).

## B. Brazil

[Original: English]
[30 June 1997]

1. Brazil reaffirms its belief that the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic represents a privileged framework for cooperation and development in the region.

2. The denuclearization of the South Atlantic remains a central objective to be pursued in the context of the zone. With the increase in signatures and ratifications in both the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty), a nuclear-weapon-free South Atlantic is a reality to which Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are progressively closer. Brazil is deeply committed to that goal. Together with 68 other countries that are members of nuclear-weapon-free zones, it co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 51/45 B of 10 December 1996 entitled "The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

3. The resolution was not aimed at creating new legal obligations in the South Atlantic or in other parts of the southern hemisphere, or at contradicting international law applicable to ocean space, but rather at seeking, *inter alia*, the recognition of the emergence of a new international scenario that is conducive to the adoption of similar initiatives in other regions and to the renewal of efforts in the process of nuclear disarmament and strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

4. The illicit traffic in drugs has become a major area of concern to the members of the zone. Brazil has a firm conviction that the implementation of the anti-drug initiative, formally launched at the fourth meeting of the States members of the zone, held at Somerset West, South Africa, on 1 and 2 April 1996, will play an important role in enhancing the cooperation between the States of the zone.

5. The main purpose of the initiative is to set an adequate legal and institutional basis for the development of projects aimed at curbing the demand, production and illicit traffic in narcotics in the zone.

6. The recent approval of a resolution in the field of narcotics control, tabled in the name of the States members of the zone, at the fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1997/28, chap. XIV, resolution 1 (XL)), is the first step in the implementation of the anti-drug initiative. In that resolution, the Commission requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to examine forms of assistance that could be extended to members of the zone. It is now up to Member States and the bureau, in close consultation with the Programme, to elaborate specific projects and thus materialize the initiative.

7. The Government of Brazil believes that projects in the framework of the anti-drug initiative should be concentrated on fostering judicial, police and customs cooperation with the purpose of curbing the illegal flow of narcotics and psychotropic substances in the zone, as well as on coordinating operations for the apprehension of psychotropic substances originating from illicit traffic. Adequate mechanisms for the exchange of information and control systems for the production and commerce of chemical agents should also be established.

8. Another important area of cooperation in the zone is the protection of the marine environment. Brazil favours the adoption of a new convention on the issue, within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, that would set up mechanisms for cooperation for the protection of the marine environment, for the conservation of marine living resources, for preventing and containing environmental accidents and for promoting both the exchange of information and concerted action in these areas.

9. The Government of Brazil is committed to continued cooperation with the members of the zone and looks forward to the fifth meeting of the States members of the zone, to be held in Argentina.

## C. Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[24 April 1997]

1. Ecuador resolutely supports the declaration set out in General Assembly resolution 41/11 establishing a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and is pleased with the progress made in spreading peace in the zone and

promoting democracy and cooperation among the States of the region.

2. In this context, Ecuador trusts that the objectives laid down in the declarations adopted at Brasilia, in 1994, and at Somerset West, South Africa, in 1996, will be achieved completely.

3. Ecuador likewise considers that the States which are able to do so should provide the necessary cooperation to ensure that the objectives of the Economic Community of West African States can be fully met.

4. In this context, Ecuador feels that it is essential that Angola and Liberia should be able to achieve political stability in order to secure sustainable and equitable development on the basis of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and that this should bring prosperity to their populations and enable those States to develop extensively their economic potential.

### D. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[3 July 1997]

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomes the objectives of General Assembly resolution 51/19, which are to promote peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic, and wishes to draw the Secretary-General's attention to developments in Anglo-Argentine relations which have contributed to the lessening of tension in the South-West Atlantic. Cooperation continues in the forum of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission, which has the conservation of fish stocks at the forefront of its agenda, and at the South-West Atlantic Hydrocarbons Commission where, in particular, progress is being made with arrangements for the joint development of hydrocarbons in the special cooperation area, set up by the joint declaration of 27 September 1995 between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

## III. Replies received from organizations and bodies of the United Nations system

### A. Department of Public Information

1. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/19, whose objectives are to promote peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic, was highlighted by the Department of Public Information in its daily news programmes for broadcasting organizations worldwide, including the Radio Bulletin Board, and received emphasis in its press release service on 14 November 1996. United Nations information centres and services, particularly those located in the region, publicized the action taken by the Assembly through briefings and newsletters.

2. The Radio and Central News Service covered a wide range of issues relating to the objectives of the resolution in its daily news bulletins, weekly current affairs magazines, regional magazines and feature programmes. The following items, among others, were covered extensively in various languages for regional and worldwide dissemination: nuclear-weapon-free zone in the southern hemisphere; economic and trade dimensions in the region; the fight against drug trafficking; civil wars and the peace processes in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone; United Nations emergency relief activities; and humanitarian assistance to displaced persons. The Service also covered a press conference by Mr. James O. C. Jonah, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Liberia, and interviewed Mr. Lansana Kouyaté, then Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, about his mission to the region. Nine features were produced in Dutch, English, French, Kiswahili and Portuguese concerning, among others, global disarmament; a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Atlantic; development and technical cooperation between South Atlantic countries; the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR); and the formation of the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation in Angola. Furthermore, as part of the strengthening of the public information components of peacekeeping activities in the West African region, the Radio Service sent two staff radio officers on temporary assignment to Angola and Liberia.

3. The Department published *An Agenda for Democratization*, a supplemental text to two previous reports by the Secretary-General on support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies. Other relevant publications were: *The Blue Helmets: A Review of United*

*Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations Peacekeeping, Year in Review 1996: UN Peace Missions, The United Nations and Human Rights, Impact of Armed Conflict on Children* (a press kit and a booklet), and *Independence of the Judiciary: A Human Rights Priority.*

4. Through their newsletters, United Nations information centres and United Nations offices drew attention to the efforts of the international community with regard to the establishment of a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and its objectives. Commemorations, such as United Nations Day, provided important opportunities for information centres and other United Nations field offices to bring to the attention of large audiences the activities of the United Nations in Angola and Liberia, as well as the importance of major United Nations conferences and the interrelationship between them. The information centres in the region, and the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, as part of their regular activities, also highlighted matters related to the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in press briefings, meetings with non-governmental-organizations, film screenings and through replies to public inquiries.

## B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. As in previous years, the main involvement of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic refers to the role played in terms of the law of the sea in the enhancement of the goals of the zone. Consequently, the activities of the programme of work of ECLAC which might be of assistance to Member States refer to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its related instruments (especially the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks). Similarly, it covers the need to develop some guidelines for the application of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the marine environment and the potential of interregional cooperation vis-à-vis the operation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, in which coordination among both sides of the Atlantic Ocean seems fundamental.

2. Another aspect in which the mechanisms of the zone could play an important role is in the prevention of the illegal traffic of dangerous products and wastes according to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/226 of 22 December 1989, in which interregional cooperation is strongly called for.

## C. United Nations Development Programme

1. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) upholds the principles and provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 41/11 on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. UNDP is making headway in the implementation of the latest General Assembly resolution on this question (resolution 51/19) by providing assistance to the States of the zone.

2. UNDP has programmes in the South Atlantic that support the agreement reached at the third meeting of the member States of the zone, held at Brasilia in 1994, to encourage democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, to promote and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of those goals.

3. In Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular in countries that are facing challenges in the promotion and maintenance of democracy, UNDP has launched democratic governance as one of its priority programmes, aimed at creating a renewed environment that fosters plurality in order to facilitate dialogue and consensus-building regarding reforms and to strengthen democratic institutions. There are three regional networks of Governments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations that are being created to advance the different processes throughout the region of Latin America and the Caribbean: (a) cooperation to modernize political parties and electoral processes in Santiago; (b) regional cooperation and assistance to the modernization of parliaments, which has its headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil; and (c) cooperation for reforms in the judiciary systems, in Buenos Aires.

4. In Africa, as co-lead agency with the Economic Commission for Africa of the governance component of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, UNDP has developed, in consultation with other United Nations agencies, a strategic framework called the Special Initiative on Governance in Africa. This framework provides five categories for governance-related interventions: leadership building; accountability; empowerment of civil society; political transition; and peace and stability. UNDP has established the Norway Trust Fund for support to

Governance in Africa, to which Norway has contributed US$ 10,284,810.

5. UNDP cooperates with the World Bank in its special programme of assistance to Africa in coordinating the working group on civil service reform, which concentrates on capacity development in the civil service.

6. With the same goals for the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and in cooperation with the Government of Angola and the international donor community, UNDP is seeking the fulfilment of pledges to provide assistance in facilitating the rehabilitation of the Angolan national economy and the resettlement of displaced persons. On 6 November 1995, the UNDP Trust Fund for Angola was established to enhance UNDP programme activities in support of the Government of Angola's Programme for Community Rehabilitation and National Reconciliation, as agreed in the Angola Round Table Conference which took place in Brussels from 25 to 27 September 1995. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide assistance to the Government of Angola at both the national and provincial levels in the following areas: (a) rehabilitation of productive capacity (agriculture, small and micro enterprises); (b) rehabilitation of social sectors (education, training, primary health care and social integration); (c) rehabilitation of infrastructure (roads and bridges, water and sewerage, electricity, housing); and (d) institutional capacity-building.

7. In consultation with the Government of Angola, UNDP is preparing a new country cooperation framework, for the period 1997-1999 along the following lines: (a) provision of assistance in the post-conflict situation in order to consolidate the gains of the peace process through the reintegration of demobilized soldiers, mine clearance programme, and coordination of the transition from emergency to development; (b) promotion of poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods through the implementation of the Programme for Community Rehabilitation and National Reconstruction, using a participatory approach; and (c) support to good governance through human resource development for the effective management of the recovery and development process, with focus on institutional reform, administrative modernization and economic management.

## D. United Nations Environment Programme

In its resolution 51/19, the General Assembly takes cognizance, *inter alia*, of the importance that the States of the zone attach to environmental issues, notably the threats posed by pollution to the marine and coastal environment. Caring for marine, coastal and freshwater resources remains a major component of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and substantial assistance has been rendered to the States of the South Atlantic region. The Regional Seas Programme of UNEP for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment has facilitated concerted action in responding to the concerns of the States of the zone. The respective subprogrammes provided the main framework for extending assistance to those States. The programme of work of UNEP promotes environmental security and it continues to encourage, in the South Atlantic region, subregional and regional cooperation on the environment.

## E. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes cooperation among the countries of the region in the field of scientific investigation of the South Atlantic and relevant ocean services, particularly through the following programmes:

(a) The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean, the First Southern Ocean Forum and the Sixth Session of the Committee (September 1996, Germany) recommended strengthening scientific cooperation in the Southern Ocean (including the South Atlantic region), in the following areas: climate and climatic change; ecosystems and their living resources; pollution; and monitoring establishment of global ocean observing system;

(b) The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Global Sea-Level Observing System, which includes about 40 sea level stations in the South Atlantic. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission training seminar/workshop on sea-level observations and analysis was hosted and organized by Argentina in November 1996 for the countries of South America;

(c) The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Data Buoy Cooperation Panel and its special action panel

on the International South Atlantic Buoy Programme. There was a meeting of the action panel in October 1996 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(d) The World Ocean Circulation Experiment of the WMO-UNEP-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-International Council of Scientific Unions World Climate Research Programme (particularly its Southern Ocean component).

## F. World Meteorological Organization

WMO coordinates the monitoring of weather and climate from ships, from other types of stations such as buoys and adjacent land and polar stations as well as polar orbiting and geostationary meteorological satellites. It also ensures the issuance of weather and storm forecasts in the South Atlantic region through the national meteorological services of its concerned members.

## G. International Maritime Organization

1. If funds are available, IMO can certainly assist States within the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic to address the degradation of the marine environment resulting from sea-based activities and enhance their capacity to prevent and mitigate the impact of marine pollution, with particular emphasis on the implementation of internationally agreed standards for the protection of the marine environment. These include the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (London, 1973), the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London, 1972), and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (London, 1990). Also relevant in this connection are the IMO conventions dealing with liability and compensation for marine pollution: the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (Brussels, 1969), the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971, and their protocols.

2. IMO does not have funds of its own for technical cooperation activities but depends completely on UNDP, the World Bank, UNEP and other multilateral-bilateral donors for the necessary support. However, IMO will be ready to assist the countries concerned with the preparation of project proposals for funding by these organizations.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/463
13 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 110

ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

# Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

## Report of the Secretary-General

1. Pursuant to article 8, paragraph 6, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex), States parties shall be responsible for the expenses of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination while they are in performance of Committee duties.

2. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, in which it endorsed the amendment to article 8 of the Convention that had been adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in January 1992 (see annex I) and requested the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to provide for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations beginning with the budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and to take the necessary measures to ensure that the Committee meets as scheduled until the amendment enters into force.

3. Acting in his capacity as depositary, the Secretary-General communicated the amendment to all States parties on 1 March 1993. It will be recalled that at their Fourteenth Meeting, the States parties decided that the amendment would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties which had so notified the Secretary-General as depositary. As at 30 August 1997, notifications of acceptance had been received from 23 States parties to the Convention.

4. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/80 of 12 December 1996, in which it urged States parties to accelerate their domestic ratification procedures with regard to the amendment to the Convention regarding the financing of the Committee and expeditiously to notify the

Secretary-General in writing of their agreement to the amendment, as decided upon at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties on 15 January 1991 and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992; requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure adequate financial arrangements and appropriate means to enable the functioning of the Committee; and requested him to invite those States parties that are in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

5. In 1997, the Committee held two regular sessions, as had been scheduled. In accordance with resolution 47/111, financing for those sessions was provided from the regular budget. Consequently, no State party assessments were made in 1997. However, a number of States parties are still in arrears from the non-payment of previous assessments. As at 30 September 1997, the total outstanding arrears amounted to $224,499.03, as detailed in annex II.

ANNEX I

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination opened for signature in New York on 7 March 1996

Approval by the General Assembly of the proposed amendment to article 8

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, and with reference to depositary notification C.N.285.1991.TREATIES-4 of 20 December 1991, communicates the following.

2. It will be recalled that the States parties to the above-mentioned Convention, at the twenty-second meeting of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties, held on 15 January 1992, decided as follows:

"1. To replace paragraph 6 of article 8 of the Convention with the paragraph 'The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the Convention';

"2. To add a new paragraph, as article 8, paragraph 7, as follows: 'The members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may decide';

"4. That the amendment shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties which shall have so notified the Secretary-General as depositary."

3. The General Assembly endorsed the amendment at its forty-seventh session (resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992). In accordance with the above-quoted paragraph 4, it will enter into force when it is accepted by the required number of States parties which shall have so notified the Secretary-General.

ANNEX II

Status of contributions to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as at 30 September 1997

| State party | Contributions payable as at 1 January 1993 | 1993 assessments | Total collections from 1993 to 1997 for 1993 and prior years[a] | Total contributions outstanding/ credits as at 30 September 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 1 348.00 | 877.00 | - | 2 225.00 |
| Algeria | - | 1 177.00 | 1 177.00 | - |
| Antigua and Barbuda | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Argentina | 690.00 | 1 941.00 | 2 631.00 | - |
| Australia | - | 3 811.00 | 3 811.00 | - |
| Austria | - | 2 341.00 | 2 341.00 | - |
| Bahamas | - | 896.00 | 896.00 | - |
| Bahrain | - | 920.00 | 920.00 | - |
| Bangladesh | 876.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 753.00 |
| Barbados | 362.00 | 877.00 | 1 239.00 | - |
| Belarus | 1 426.00 | 1 869.00 | - | 3 295.00 |
| Belgium | - | 2 900.00 | 2 900.00 | - |
| Bolivia | 362.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 239.00 |
| Botswana | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Brazil | 1 792.00 | 4 056.00 | 5 848.00 | - |
| Bulgaria | 431.00 | 1 104.00 | 1 535.00 | - |
| Burkina Faso | 6 629.83 | 877.00 | - | 7 506.83 |
| Burundi | 8 899.00 | 877.00 | - | 9 776.00 |
| Cambodia | 2 244.00 | 877.00 | - | 3 121.00 |
| Cameroon | 942.04 | 877.00 | - | 1 819.04 |
| Canada | - | 7 004.00 | 7 004.00 | - |
| Cape Verde | 7 162.00 | 877.00 | - | 8 039.00 |
| Central African Republic | 7 783.89 | 877.00 | - | 8 660.89 |
| Chad | 211.40 | 877.00 | - | 1 088.40 |
| Chile | 1 006.00 | 1 015.00 | 2 021.00 | - |
| China | - | 2 367.00 | 2 367.00 | - |
| Colombia | - | 1 109.00 | 1 109.00 | - |
| Congo | 2 597.00 | 877.00 | - | 3 474.00 |
| Costa Rica | 3 888.86 | 872.00 | - | 4 760.86 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1 937.00 | 896.00 | 2 343.00 | 490.00 |
| Cuba | - | 1 035.00 | 1 035.00 | - |
| Cyprus | - | 896.00 | 896.00 | - |
| Czech Republic[b] | - | - | - | - |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo[c] | - | 877.00 | 45.00 | 832.00 |
| Denmark | - | 2 122.00 | 2 122.00 | - |

| State party | Contributions payable as at 1 January 1993 | 1993 assessments | Total collections from 1993 to 1997 for 1993 and prior years[a] | Total contributions outstanding/ credits as at 30 September 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dominican Republic | 3 523.00 | 892.00 | - | 4 415.00 |
| Ecuador | 913.00 | 916.00 | 1 773.50 | 55.50 |
| Egypt | - | 994.00 | 994.00 | - |
| El Salvador | 7 162.00 | 877.00 | - | 8 039.00 |
| Estonia | - | 1 205.00 | - | 1 205.00 |
| Ethiopia | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Fiji | 362.00 | 877.00 | 1 239.00 | - |
| Finland | - | 2 007.00 | 2 007.00 | - |
| France | - | 12 590.00 | 12 590.00 | - |
| Gabon | 892.00 | 892.00 | - | 1 784.00 |
| Gambia | 7 831.00 | 877.00 | - | 8 708.00 |
| Germany | - | 18 294.00 | 18 294.00 | - |
| Ghana | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Greece | - | 1 524.00 | 1 524.00 | - |
| Guatemala | 1 389.20 | 896.00 | - | 2 285.20 |
| Guinea | 903.80 | 877.00 | - | 1 780.80 |
| Guyana | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Haiti | 1 750.00 | 877.00 | - | 2 627.00 |
| Holy See | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Hungary | - | 1 199.00 | 1 199.00 | - |
| Iceland | - | 916.00 | 916.00 | - |
| India | - | 1 562.00 | - | 1 562.00 |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | - | 2 411.00 | - | 2 411.00 |
| Iraq | - | 1 117.00 | 1 117.00 | - |
| Israel | 1 949.00 | 1 320.00 | 3 269.00 | - |
| Italy | - | 9 456.00 | 9 456.00 | - |
| Jamaica | 362.00 | 877.00 | 1 239.00 | - |
| Jordan | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Kuwait | 501.00 | 1 332.00 | 1 833.00 | - |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Latvia | - | 1 322.00 | - | 1 322.00 |
| Lebanon | 4 822.00 | 877.00 | 4 460.00 | 1 239.00 |
| Lesotho | 1 348.00 | 877.00 | 2 225.00 | - |
| Liberia | 7 139.00 | 877.00 | - | 8 016.00 |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 2 053.00 | 1 313.00 | 3 366.00 | - |
| Luxembourg | - | 975.00 | 975.00 | - |
| Madagascar | 901.87 | 877.00 | - | 1 778.87 |
| Maldives | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Mali | 9 850.00 | 877.00 | - | 10 727.00 |
| Malta | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |

| State party | Contributions payable as at 1 January 1993 | 1993 assessments | Total collections from 1993 to 1997 for 1993 and prior years[a] | Total contributions outstanding/ credits as at 30 September 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mauritania | 2 285.00 | 877.00 | - | 3 162.00 |
| Mauritius | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Mexico | - | 2 567.00 | 2 567.00 | - |
| Mongolia | 876.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 753.00 |
| Morocco | - | 912.00 | 912.00 | - |
| Mozambique | 5 097.00 | 877.00 | - | 5 974.00 |
| Nepal | 876.00 | 877.00 | 1 753.00 | - |
| Netherlands | - | 3 750.00 | 3 750.00 | - |
| New Zealand | - | 1 331.00 | 1 331.00 | - |
| Nicaragua | 2 244.00 | 877.00 | - | 3 121.00 |
| Niger | 2 750.00 | 877.00 | - | 3 627.00 |
| Nigeria | 1 899.00 | 1 251.00 | 3 150.00 | - |
| Norway | - | 1 941.00 | 1 941.00 | - |
| Pakistan | 0.01 | 975.00 | 975.01 | - |
| Panama | 1 122.00 | 896.00 | 3 018.00 | (1 000.00) |
| Papua New Guinea | 362.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 239.00 |
| Peru | 2 469.00 | 975.00 | - | 3 444.00 |
| Philippines | - | 986.00 | 986.00 | - |
| Poland | 610.00 | 1 744.00 | 2 354.00 | - |
| Portugal | - | 1 260.00 | 1 260.00 | - |
| Qatar | 393.00 | 955.00 | 1 348.00 | - |
| Republic of Korea | - | 2 425.00 | 2 425.00 | - |
| Romania | 1 819.00 | 1 184.00 | 3 003.00 | - |
| Russian Federation | 18 149.00 | 12 750.00 | - | 30 899.00 |
| Rwanda | 876.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 753.00 |
| Saint Lucia | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 6 637.00 | 877.00 | - | 7 514.00 |
| Senegal | - | 877.00 | 816.19 | 60.81 |
| Seychelles | 876.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 753.00 |
| Sierra Leone | 8 659.00 | 877.00 | - | 9 536.00 |
| Slovenia | - | 1 205.00 | 1 205.00 | - |
| Solomon Islands | 2 244.00 | 877.00 | - | 3 121.00 |
| Somalia | 7 028.00 | 877.00 | - | 7 905.00 |
| Spain | - | 4 777.00 | 4 777.00 | - |
| Sri Lanka | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Sudan | 3 510.00 | 877.00 | - | 4 387.00 |
| Suriname | 3 084.00 | 877.00 | 3 961.00 | - |
| Swaziland | 362.00 | 877.00 | 1 239.00 | - |
| Sweden | - | 3 003.00 | 3 003.00 | - |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 385.00 | 936.00 | 1 321.00 | - |

| State party | Contributions payable as at 1 January 1993 | 1993 assessments | Total collections from 1993 to 1997 for 1993 and prior years[a] | Total contributions outstanding/ credits as at 30 September 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Togo | 1 367.04 | 877.00 | - | 2 244.04 |
| Tonga | 798.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 675.00 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 820.17 | 955.00 | 1 782.38 | (7.21) |
| Tunisia | - | 916.00 | 916.00 | - |
| Uganda | 362.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 239.00 |
| Ukraine | 3 026.00 | 4 820.00 | 7 846.00 | - |
| United Arab Emirates | - | 1 280.00 | 1 280.00 | - |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | - | 10 836.00 | 10 836.00 | - |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 1 898.00 | 877.00 | - | 2 775.00 |
| Uruguay | 385.00 | 936.00 | 385.00 | 936.00 |
| Venezuela | - | 1 788.00 | - | 1 788.00 |
| Viet Nam | 2 244.00 | 877.00 | - | 3 121.00 |
| Yemen | 924.00 | 877.00 | - | 1 801.00 |
| Yugoslavia | 1 435.00 | 1 122.00 | - | 2 557.00 |
| Zambia | - | 877.00 | 877.00 | - |
| Zimbabwe | 993.00 | 1 093.00 | - | 2 086.00 |
| Total | 193 104.11 | 224 530.00 | 193 135.08[d] | 224 499.03 |

[a] In accordance with records of the Contributions Service as at 30 September 1997.

[b] An amount of $502.00, which represents the surplus of the 1991 contribution made by the former Czechoslovakia, has been placed in suspense pending action, if any, by the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with respect to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

[c] Effective 17 May 1997, Zaire was renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo.

[d] Includes credits held in the suspense account totalling $208.30 in favour of four States parties, and credits transferred from the suspense account totalling $3,502.11 in favour of seven States parties.

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United Nations A/52/464

General Assembly

Distr.:General
14 October 1997

Original: English

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 143

# Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

## Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the comments of the Joint Inspection Unit on final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

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# Annex

## Comments of the Joint Inspection Unit on final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services

1. Pursuant to paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, the Joint Inspection Unit presents its comments on the following final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which have been prepared for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

2. As stipulated in resolution 48/218 B, the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services have been transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General. The Joint Inspection Unit assumes that the Secretary-General is in agreement with those reports on which he conveyed no comments.

3. The Unit's past practice was to submit comments on all reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services together once a year. However, in view of the General Assembly's decision to consider those reports under the appropriate agenda items, the Unit and the Office have agreed on a new procedure, introduced in July 1997, in accordance with which the Unit has been submitting comments on individual reports as they are taken up by the Assembly.

4. Since the issuance of the note by the Secretary-General of 21 October 1996 (A/51/530 and Corr.1), in which the Joint Inspection Unit transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session its comments on final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Unit has received the following further reports for comment:

Audit of the United Nations access control system Project (A/50/791)

Report on the investigation of the United Nations access control system (A/51/467)

Report on the inquiry into seminars of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/51/486, annex)

Audit and investigation of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/51/789, annex)

Final report on enhancing the internal oversight mechanisms in operational funds and programmes (A/51/801)

Audit of Headquarters catering operations (A/51/802, annex)

Audit of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/51/803, annex)

Review of the outsourcing practices at the United Nations (A/51/804, annex)

Review of the United Nations Environment Programme and the administrative practices of its secretariat, including the United Nations Office in Nairobi (A/51/810, annex)

Review of the 1997 resource requirements for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/51/824, annex)

Review of the programme and administrative practices of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (A/51/884, annex)

Audit of the United Nations Postal Administration (A/51/897, annex)

In-depth evaluation of the programme on statistics (E/AC.51/1997/2, annex)

In-depth evaluation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/1997/3, annex)

Topics for future in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1997/4, annex)

Triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development (E/AC.51/1997/5, annex)

5. The Joint Inspection Unit has reviewed all the above reports. The General Assembly has already considered some of them, including the report on the audit of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/51/803, annex), which was commented on separately. With respect to the others, the United either in general agrees with their findings or does not consider it appropriate to comment on them.